

In response to the Office Action dated July 21, 2003, Applicant hereby responds to the Restriction Requirement by electing Group I, Claims 1-5 and 9-20, drawn to a nucleic acid, which encodes human $\alpha 1$ chain collagen protein, comprising SEQ ID NO:1; a recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence; a nucleic acid comprising at least 20 or 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:5; a kit for detecting the disease related to the mutation of SEQ ID NO5 in a mammal comprising a probe or primer, which comprises the nucleotide sequence related to SEQ ID NO:5 or its fragment; and a method for producing human $\alpha 1$ chain collagen protein by expression the protein in a host cell, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1, and class 435, subclasses 320.1 and 252.1, with

traverse. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider to withdraw the Restriction Order.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly requested. .

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fei-Fei Chao".

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Reg. No. 43,538

Date: August 8, 2003

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